

**Selectmen from page 16**

proved Change Order #2.

The Board approved the final draft of the Town Meeting warrant, subject to any petitioned articles being dropped off prior to the deadline on February 5.

Under new business, the Board signed a timber tax warrant and a Current Use Change Tax warrant.

The Board unanimously voted to deny a property tax abatement request for two parcels. For one, the applicant provided no information justifying the request. For the other, the reason stated for the request was in a letter from a local realtor claiming that the property has been on the real estate market for a period of time at an asking price lower than the town's assessment. The selectmen noted that the Town's current assessments are as of an effective date of April 1, 2004, and they opined that this property probably would have sold for very close to the assessed value at that time.

The Board reviewed and approved a request from the Supervisors of the Checklist to increase the supervisors' rate of pay.

The Board acknowledged receipt of a complaint alleging a violation of the state's junk vehicle law at a property on Morrill Hill Road. The selectmen asked Stetson to investigate.

**February 18**

*Condensed from approved minutes*

**Present:** Chairman Dennis Fenton, Selectmen Roger Godwin and Andrew Guptill, and Town Administrator Mark Stetson

Under old business, Stetson reported that the dam at Highland Lake had breached sometime after 6 PM on Wednesday, February 13, when Bryant Adams had last checked on it and about 7 AM the following morning when workers arrived. Because the stop logs had been installed, allowing the contractor to do work in the dry downstream of the dam, the lake level had risen dramatically overnight as a result of the heavy rains.

The high water level opened up a hole adjacent to the existing spillway into an open excavation area, filled the trench on either side of the newly installed box cul-

vert with water and then found an outlet path adjacent to the outlet of the new culvert back into Sucker Brook. The contractor pulled stop logs right away in an effort to divert water through the culvert rather than around it.

Representatives from both the Town's consulting engineering firm and from the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services viewed the site to determine the extent of damage. Late in the day on Friday the 15th, the contractor was able to install a steel sheet and sandbags over the area of the breach. By Monday the 18th the lake level had dropped significantly. The weather conditions likely caused further delays and additional costs to complete the dam repair.

Under new business, the Board signed the equalization ratio study form for the New Hampshire Department of Revenue Administration. Stetson reported that there was little change in the sales-to-assessment ratio for 2007 for Andover properties as compared to 2006.

The Board discussed three possible detour routes proposed by the New Hampshire Department of Transportation (DOT) to carry Route 11 traffic around the site of the work planned to remove the Route 11 bridge in Potter Place. DOT officials estimate the detour would last three months.

One possible route includes using Potters Road, a portion of Cilleyville Road, and a portion of Depot Street. In exchange, the state proposes to repave

the Town roads at the cessation of the detour.

The Board asked Stetson to inquire if the scope of paving work includes reclamation or just a shim and overlay. The Board also discussed the fact that this proposed detour route would put traffic right through the Historical Society's annual Old Time Fair celebration. Fenton suggested seeking funds from the state to reimburse the Society should the celebration have to be cancelled due to the detour.

Another option would be to construct a road entirely on private property on the south side of Route 11. The Board would not object to this proposal, however it would want assurances that the access points would be entirely removed at the completion of the work.

A third option proposed by the state would include constructing a detour on property on the north side of Route 11. The cost to construct this detour is estimated to be higher than the other two.

The Board then met with Road Agent John Thompson who reported that, in addition to plowing and sanding, his crews have been busy pushing out holes in snow banks to provide outlets for water when it starts running. They have also been busy pushing snow back at intersections and other trouble spots.

Thompson reported that the extra 1,000 yards of sand that the Town recently purchased is now gone. He has ordered more. He committed to completing the work at the boat ramp before the

level of the lake rises to cover that area.

The Board then met with Janet Moore and Mary Lou McCrave to discuss with Moore her interest in serving as a trustee of the Town's trust funds. After a very brief discussion, the Board approved the appointment of Moore to a vacant position as trustee. She was then sworn in.

The Board then met with Police Chief Glenn Laramie who reported that the department responded to 209 calls for service during the previous 30-day period. He told the Board that included in that total were four abandoned vehicles, five arrests, 47 motor vehicle warnings, and seven motor vehicle summonses. A lively discussion about the pros and cons followed the chief's suggestion that the next cruiser should have 4-wheel drive.

**March 3**

*Condensed from approved minutes*

**Present:** Chairman Dennis Fenton, Selectman Andrew Guptill, Town Administrator Mark Stetson

The Board met with Road Agent John Thompson, who told the Board that he and another contractor removed snow from the school parking lot on Sunday, March 3. He noted that more than 900 yards of snow were trucked away from just the courtyard area in front of the school.

**Old Business**

Stetson reported that construction at See Selectmen on page 18



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